GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4172
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2002
MIGRATION OF FARMERS
BHAVNA DEVRAJ CHIKHALIA;PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to non-remunerative pricing policy of the Government for farm products, the farmers in various States are migrating from villages to cities in search of jobs;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps being taken by the Government particularly in drought prone districts of Gujarat?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) to (c): No, Sir. The migration of farmers from villages to cities may be ascribed mainly to search for better employment, expectation of better wages and living conditions, transfer of service/contract, housing problems, social/political problems etc.

One of the main objectives of the Government`s price policy for agricultural produce aims at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production. The Government announces each season the Minimum Support Prices (M.S.Ps.) of major agricultural commodities and organizes purchase operationsthrough public and cooperative agencies like Food Corporation of India (FCI) − paddy, wheatand coarse grains; Jute Corporation of India (JCI) − Jute; Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) −Cotton; National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) − pulses and oilseeds; and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments. TheM.S.Ps. of major agricultural commodities have been raised over the years. There has been record procurement of agricultural commodities in recent years. The Government has announced the payment of special drought relief prices, ranging from Rs.5 to Rs.20 per quintal, over and above the M.S.Ps. for Kharif crops of 2002-03 season. The M.S.Ps. and special drought relief prices are payable all over the country including Gujarat.